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SUBJECT: ISRAELI ATTACK ON IRAQI NUCLEAR FACILITY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J. Li DATE 9/30/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☒
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1. SUMMAR.
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JUNE 9, ISSUED A STRONG STATE
MENT CONDEMNING THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON AN IRAQI NUCLEAR
FACILITY. MEDIA IS CRITICAL OF ISRAEL, BUT ALSO LAYS
BLAME ON U.S. FOR SUPPLYING ISRAEL WITH ARMS. EDITORIALS
MAINTAIN THAT U.S. ARMS DEAL WITH PAKISTAN WILL HAVE A
SIMILARLY DESTABILIZING EFFECT IN THE AREA. A FRONT PAGE
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CARTOON BLATANTLY ACCUSES U.S. OF FACISM IN PURSUING
NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY. END SUMMARY.
2. MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JUNE 9 ISSUED FOLLOWING
STATEMENT CONCERNING THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON AN IRAQI
NUCLEAR FACILITY.
3. BEGIN TEXT. THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAS LEARNED WITH
GREAT CONCERN AND A SENSE OF DEEP INDIGNATION THE DESTRUC-
TION OF THE IRAQI OSIRAK ATOMIC REACTOR BY ISREELI WAR
PLANES ON JUNE 8. THIS ISRAELI ACTION IS STARK ALVENTUR-
ISM AND BLATANT INTERVENTION AND AGGRESSION DESERVING
CONDEMNATION.
IRAQ HAS REPEATEDLY STATED THAT ITS PROGRAM IN THE
NUCLEAR FIELD IS CONFIRNED TO THE UTILIZATION OF NUCLEAR
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. THERE IS

THEREFORE NO BASIS FOR THE ISRAELI CONTENTION THAT IRAQ WAS ON THE VERGE OF PRODUCING ATOMIC WEAPONS.
HE AGGRESSIVE, EXPANSIONIST AND ANTI-ARAB POLICIES OF ISRAEL HAVE BEEN A SOURCE OF INSTABILITY AND TENSION IN THE REGION. THIS HIGHLH REPREHENSIBLE ACT OF UNPROVOKED AND UNJUSTIFIED ATTACK ON THE IRAQI REACTOR HAS MADE A MOCKERY OF ACCEPTED NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR AND SETS A MOST UNFORTUNATE PRECEDENT. END TEXT.
4. ALL OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS JUNE 10 CARRY STRONGLY WORDED EDITORIALS CONDEMINING THE ISRAELI ATTACK. THEY NOTE THAT THE PREEMPTIVE STRIKE RAISES A NEW PRECEDENT AND ASSERT THAT ISRAEL IS A LIKELY POSSESSOR OF A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. THE ELITORIALS ALSO IMPLICATE THE UNITED STATES, BOTH AS THE DEFENDER OF ISRAELI POLICY AS

WELL AS A SUPPLIER OF MILITARY HARDWARE TO ISRAEL. THE STATESMAN NOTES THAT THE REPORTS OF AN IRAQI BOMB PLAN CAUSED GREAT CONCERN TO THE U.S. BUT THE U.S. DID LITTE TO STOP ISRAEL'S BOMB PREPARATIONS. THE HINDUSTAN T MES ASSERTED THAT "ISRAEL WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RUN AMUCK IN THIS FASHION BUT FOR THE MILITARY MUSCLE SO GE
-
EROUSLY SPPLIED BY SUCCESSIVE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIONS ..... THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION WILL STAND REVEALED IN THE AGGRESSOR'S NORNER IF IT ATTEMPTS TO VETO THE INEVITABLE INDICTMENT OF ISRAET."
5. THE PRESS ALSO DREW A PARALLEL BETWEEN THE U.S. EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED TO ISRAEL AND THAT WHICH IS CONTEMPLATED FOR PAKISTAN AND IMPLIED THATSUCH EQUIPMENT WOULD HAVE A SIMILARLY DESTABILZING EFFECT IN THE AREA.
6. THE TIMES OF INDIA NOTED THAT THE ARABS "MUST LIVE UNDER THE CONSTANT THREAT OF BEING BOMBED TO OBLIVION, BUT THEY CANNOT TAKE ANY MEASURES TO COUNTER THE THREAT OR EVEN TO TAP NUCLEAR POWER FOR PEACEFUL ENDS WITHOUT INVOKING ISRAELI RETRIBUTION." THE TIMES CONCLUDES THAT THE U.S. SHOULD SEE THE INCIDENT AS "CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT THE GREATEST AND MOST IMMEDIATE THREAT TO STABILITY IN THE CRUCIAL SOUTHWEST ASIA REGION IS NOT SOVIET AMBITION, BUT ISRAELI BELLICOSITY."
7. ON FREQUENT OCCASIONS, WE HAVE DETECTED AN UNFORTUNATE NOTE OF RACISM IN INDIA'S ARGUMENT THAT THE U.S. HAS BEEN ABIVALENT ABOUT PREVENTING AN ISRAELI NUCLEAR POTENTIAL WHIL VIGOROUSLY PURSUING NON-PROLIFERATION MWASURES FOR AFRICAN, ARAB, AND SUB-CONTINENTAL COUNTIES. AN INDIAN EXPRESS FRONT PAGE CARTOON JUNE 10 RAISES THIS ISSUE IN STARK TERMS. IT DEPICTS PRIME MINISTER BEGIN WITH A ROCKET IN ONE HAND AND A CLIPPING ABOUT THE ISRAELI ATTACK IN THE OTHER. HE IS TELLING PRESIDENT REAGAN, "I AM CON-

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VINCED OF THE WHITENESS OF OUR CAUSE."
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